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MAY



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Nokia Corporation
% Page White & Farrer
54 Doughty Street
LONDON
WC1N 2LS

**The Patent Office
Patents Directorate**

Concept House
Cardiff Road, Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

Your Reference: 300764GB/KCS/erw
Application No: GB 0220800.7

Examiner: 01633 813507
E-mail: Brian.McCartan@patent.gov.uk
Switchboard: 01633 814000
Fax: 01633 814444
Minicom: 08459 222250
DX: 722540/41 Cleppa Park 3
<http://www.patent.gov.uk>

28 February 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **27 January 2004**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

Brian Mc Cartan
Examiner

[†]**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.

SEARCHED
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Application No: GB 0220800.7
Claims searched: 1 - 23

Examiner: Brian Mc Cartan
Date of search: 27 February 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1, 5, 6, 11 - 16, 20, 22 & 23 at least	GB 2322495 A (NEC) See figures 1A & B & pages 7 & 8
A	-	US 6346859 B (Saitou)
A	-	US 5357213 A (Michel et al.)
A	-	US 5272450 A (Wisherd)

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC⁶:

H3W

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

I103F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO